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Message Text

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71-62
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 TRSE-00 STR-04 FEA-01

AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05

CIEP-02 SS-15 TAR-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 OIC-02 /155 W
---------- 050960
R 271657Z JAN 76
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7786
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS GENEVA 0572

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: GATT, ETRD
SUBJECT: GATT PANELS ON DISC AND RELATED TAX PRACTICES

REF: STATE 8361 (NOTAL)

1. GATT SECRETARIAT (KAUTZOR-SCHRODER) HAS INFORMED MISSION THAT MARIADASON HAS SENT CABLE ACCEPTING CHAIRMANSHIP OF SUBJECT PANELS. AVAILABILITY OF ALL PANEL MEMBERS NOW CONFIRMED.

2. MARIADASON NOT EXPECTED RETURN TO GENEVA UNTIL END OF FEBRUARY; HE WILL ALSO BE AWAY DURING MONTH OF MAY. AS GABRIELLSON NOT AVAILABLE FIRST WEEK IN MARCH, GATT SECRETARIAT EXPECTS EARLIEST PANELS WILL MEET IS SECOND WEEK IN MARCH.

3. WE HAVE INFORMED SECRETARIAT THAT OFFICIALS FROM
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WASHINGTON WILL PROBABLY WANT TO ATTEND MEETINGS AND

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THAT IT SHOULD KEEP THIS IN MIND IN ANNOUNCING MEETING
DATES. FIRST PANEL MEETING EXPECTED TO RUN FROM TUESDAY
TO FRIDAY OF WHATEVER WEEK IS CHOSEN.

4. ALTHOUGH PANEL EXPECTED TO SPEND PART OF FIRST MEETING
DISCUSSING PROCEDURES, SECRETARIAT
ASSUMES THAT THEY WILL ALSO GET INTO SUBSTANCE. AS THREE
OF PANEL MEMBERS NOT BASED IN GENEVA, IT IS DOUBTFUL
THEY WOULD WANT TO MAKE TRIP TO GENEVA JUST TO TALK ABOUT
PROCEDURES. WE BELIEVE WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE
SHOULD THEREFORE BE PREPARED TO PRESENT OUR DEFENSE
OF DISC AT FIRST MEETING AS WELL AS CASE AGAINST RELATED
FRENCH, BELGIAN AND DUTCH TAX PRACTICES. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, MEETING CHAIRMAN, TAX RELIEF, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA00572
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760031-0607
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760119/aaaaaqbo.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 8361
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hattaycs
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUN 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by hattaycs>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GATT PANELS ON DISC AND RELATED TAX PRACTICES
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC, (MARIADASON, LAWRENCE JOSEPH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006